



CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER POLICY

St George's Pre-School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Staff Responsible:	Pre-School Manager
Date of Review:	March 2018
Date of Next Review:	March 2019

VERSION CONTROL

Date	Change
September 2018	Unchanged Policy moved to new format

Contents

1. Principles underlying this Policy	4
2. Aims of this Policy	4
3. Current Practice	5
4. Success Criteria	5
5. Roles and Responsibilities	5
6. Confidentiality	6
7. Involving Others	6
8. Assessment, Planning, Monitoring and Review	7
9. Links to Other Policies	7

The Trust is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes.

We recognise that nationally there is considerable educational underachievement of children in residential and foster care, when compared with their peers. The majority of children in care are there because they have suffered abuse or neglect.

The principles under-pinning this policy are:

- It is the responsibility of all staff to promote the educational achievement wellbeing and welfare of children looked after (CLA)
- Staff recognise that being or becoming a CLA has a major impact on children's lives and that when considering children's behaviour, due consideration is given
- We take a proactive approach in co-operating with, and supporting, the relevant agencies with regard to the education of children looked after attending this setting
- That CLA have access to the whole curriculum appropriately differentiated to meet their individual needs
- That CLA pupils are involved, wherever practicable, in decisions affecting their future provision
- The setting will send reports/ representatives to any reviews held for CLA pupils
- The setting will act as an advocate for CLA
- Appropriate documents will be forwarded to any receiving school or setting at point of transition, in a timely fashion, where the receiving school or setting is made known
- Two places will always be left available for CLA within each session.
- All staff will actively seek information to ensure that they are aware of any child who was previously CLA (KCSIE 2018)

The aims of this policy are to ensure that:

- The setting recognises the role of the local authority's children's social care department as the child's corporate parent and the key agency in determining what takes place with the child.
- As a setting we play an active part in vigorously applying the principles of good parenting by:
 - Giving priority to these children's education
 - Providing stability and continuity
 - Promoting inclusion
 - Raising standards of achievement
 - Intervening early
 - Celebrating success
- All staff have an understanding of the difficulties and educational disadvantage faced by CLA and understand the need for positive systems of support to overcome them
- The designated person is appropriately experienced and/or trained in regard of their responsibilities in the education of CLA pupils. The designated person is the setting's SENCO

- Carers and social workers of CLA pupils are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment
- No changes with regard to the birth parent's or foster carer's role in relation to the setting, without prior discussion and agreement with the child's social worker
- We contribute positively to the process whereby all CLA pupils have a high quality care plan in place. Following the writing of the care plan, any educational recommendations are fully implemented and pupils have the opportunity to achieve their targets. This plan is reviewed after two weeks, six weeks and three months. Thereafter at three to six monthly intervals.

Current practice ensures that:

- The designated person for CLA is kept informed about the progress and personal achievements of CLA
- In exceptional circumstances, the setting will offer places to two-year-old children who are in care. In such cases, the child should have been with the foster carer for at least two months and show signs of having formed a secure attachment to the carer, and the placement in the setting will last a minimum of three months.
- Places are offered for funded three and four year olds who are in care to ensure they receive their entitlement to early education. We expect that a child will have been with a foster carer for a minimum of one month and that they will have formed a secure attachment to the carer. The placement will last a minimum of six weeks.
- The setting will offer 'stay and play' provision for a child who is two to five years old who is still settling with their foster carer, or who is temporarily being looked after.
- Staff are familiar with this policy and guidance on CLA and respond appropriately to requests for information to support care plans and review meetings
- Staff have high expectations of the personal and educational achievements of CLA
- Staff contribute to regular liaison with social care colleagues and other appropriate professionals and keep carers fully informed at all times
- Staff keep appropriate records, confidentially as necessary, and make these available to other professionals/parents/carers/as appropriate
- There is a person designated for the provision of CLA

We will be succeeding when:

- The individual's learning needs are met
- Parents/carers feel fully informed, as appropriate, about their child

Roles and Responsibilities

The pre-school manager will inform staff of a child's care status and determine the extent to which information is shared with other members of staff .

The designated person

The designated person for CLA is the child protection co-ordinator (setting manager)

The role of the designated person is to:

- Maintain a register of CLA and ensure all relevant education and care information is available to setting staff and that this information is kept up to date.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantage faced by CLA and understand the need for high expectations and positive systems of support to overcome them.
- Hold a supervisory brief and monitor the educational progress and wellbeing of all CLA.
- Supervise the smooth induction of a new looked after child into the setting.
- Ensure that each child has a Care Plan and that setting-based access to services and support is in place.
- Liaise with the designated person for Child Protection.
- Help co-ordinate education and Social Services Department review meetings so that the child's Care Plan can be put in place and enable the child to make a contribution to their Care Plan.
- Attend or arrange for someone else to attend Social Services Department's planning meetings.
- Act as advisor for other staff in the setting on issues relevant to CLA and ensure there is sensitivity to the background of CLA, especially in work around families, family trees and family values.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between agencies and individuals and report on the progress of all CLA to the CLA Services.
- Develop knowledge of social services and education procedures by attending training events organised by the Local Authority and cascade training to staff as appropriate.

Confidentiality

- The designated person has responsibility for informing all setting staff who are in contact with the child of their care status
- In the absence of the key worker, the setting manager or the designated person will share some basic information with the staff member covering the key workers absence
- If appropriate, other members of the setting staff may need to have a knowledge of the child's care status
- In each case, the setting manager and the designated person will determine the extent of the information shared. In every case, only information that is important to the safeguarding and well-being of a child will be passed on

Involving the parent(s) and carer(s)

Support from home greatly assists a child's educational progress and so the pre-school aims to involve parents, carers and those with parental responsibility in an open and positive manner. The setting will maintain regular communication with the primary carer and will ensure that copies of reports are forwarded to the relevant Social Worker in addition to the foster carer and parent as allowed.

Involving other agencies

Multi-agency working is crucial to the support and progress of CLA. The setting will work closely with other agencies involved in supporting the achievements and welfare of the child, particularly the social worker. The setting will exchange appropriate information to appropriate personnel between reviews when necessary. The pre-school will operate under GDPR regulations and KCSIE 2018.

Assessment, planning, monitoring and review procedures

Key workers will carry out assessment, planning and monitoring in accordance with general setting practice. Each pupil in public care will have a Care Plan. This will identify basic information, act as a record of progress, identify specific areas of concern and include achievable targets.

Links to other policies.

Data Protection

Safeguarding

Confidentiality